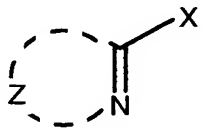
**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (currently amended) A colour photographic element comprising at least one light-sensitive silver halide emulsion layer or a non silver-containing light-insensitive layer, in which at least one of these layers contains a colourless imidazole compound of formula (I) that undergoes less than 10% chemical or redox reaction with oxidized developer and which enables the photographic speed of the element to be increased by at least ~~0.03~~ 0.05 stop without increasing granularity, compared to the same element without the compound, wherein the compound of formula (I) has the structure:-




(I)

wherein

X is H or a substituent;

Z represents the atoms necessary to complete an unsubstituted or substituted imidazole ring, which may form part of a fused unsubstituted or substituted ring system containing no further ring heteroatoms;

wherein there is present at least one -NH group either in the imidazole ring or directly attached to the imidazole ring as part of X;

provided that

(a) when Z represents the atoms necessary to complete an unsubstituted or substituted benzimidazole ring, an -NH group is directly attached to the imidazole ring as part of X, and X is located between the imidazole nitrogen atoms;

(b) when the –NH group is located in the ring adjacent to the carbon atom bearing X, and X is located between the imidazole nitrogen atoms, the imidazole ring is not fused to a phenanthrene ring.

2. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The colour photographic element ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 1 wherein the compound of formula (I) undergoes less than 5% chemical or redox reaction with oxidised developer.

3. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The colour photographic element ~~as claimed in either of the preceding claims~~ of claim 1 wherein the compound of formula (I) is contained in the most light-sensitive layer of two or more light-sensitive layers having the same spectral sensitivity.

4. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The colour photographic element ~~as claimed in any one of the preceding claims~~ of claim 1 wherein the compound of formula (I) is located in the green record wherein the maximum spectral sensitivity to light is from 500 to 600nm.

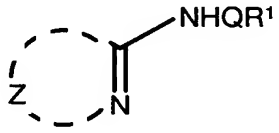
5. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The colour photographic element ~~as claimed in any one of the preceding claims~~ of claim 1 wherein the silver halide comprises silver iodobromide.

6. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The colour photographic element ~~as claimed in any one of the preceding claims~~ of claim 1 wherein the compound of formula (I) enables the photographic speed of the element to be increased by at least 0.10 stop without increasing granularity, compared to the same element without the compound.

7. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The colour photographic element ~~as claimed in any one of the preceding claims~~ of claim 1 wherein the compound of formula (I) has one or more electron-withdrawing groups attached to the imidazole ring, a ring fused thereto or as part of substituent X.

8. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The colour photographic element ~~as claimed in any one of the preceding claims~~ of claim 1 wherein when there is an –NH group as part of the imidazole ring X is selected from a cyano or an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, aryl, alkyl-or aryl-sulfonyl, alkyl-or aryl-carbonyl, ~~alkyl-or aryl-carbonyl~~, alkyloxy- or aryloxy-carbonyl, heterocyclyl or a group $NRQR^1$, wherein R is hydrogen or an alkyl group, $R^1$ is a substituent and Q is a carbonyl, sulfonyl or aryl group.

9. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The colour photographic element ~~as claimed in any one of the preceding claims~~ of claim 1 wherein the compound has the formula (II)




(II)

wherein

NHQ is selected from the class consisting of amido, arylamino, ureido, carbamato or sulfonamido;

$R^1$ is a substituent; and

Z represents the atoms necessary to complete an unsubstituted or substituted imidazole ring, which may form part of a fused unsubstituted or substituted ring system containing no further ring heteroatoms;

provided that when Z represents the atoms necessary to complete an unsubstituted or substituted benzimidazole ring, $NHQR^1$ is located between the two imidazole nitrogen atoms.

10. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The colour photographic element ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 9 wherein Q is or contains an electron-withdrawing group.

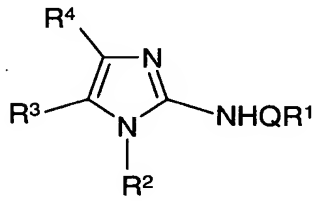
11. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The colour photographic element ~~as claimed in either of claims 9 and~~ of claim 10 wherein Q is or contains a carbonyl or a sulfonyl group.

12. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The colour photographic element ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 11 wherein, when Q is or contains a carbonyl group, the ring or ring system represented by Z contains one or more electron-withdrawing groups.

13. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The colour photographic element ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 11 wherein, when Q is or contains a sulfonyl group, the ring or ring system represented by Z contains one or more electron-withdrawing or electron-donating groups.

14. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The colour photographic element ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 9 wherein, when Q is an aryl group, the ring or ring system represented by Z contains one or more electron-withdrawing groups.

15. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The colour photographic element ~~as claimed in any one of claims 9 to 14~~ of claim 9 wherein the compound has the structure (III):-




wherein

$R^1$, $R^2$, $R^3$ and $R^4$ are independently selected substituents or $R^3$ and $R^4$ may join to form a fused ring not containing any ring heteroatoms;

NHQ is selected from the class consisting of an amido, ureido arylamino, carbamato or sulfonamido group.

16. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The colour photographic element ~~as claimed in~~ of claim ~~15~~ 9 wherein $R^1$ is selected from hydrogen and an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, aryl, alkoxy, aryloxy, or alkyl- or arylamino group.

17. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The colour photographic element ~~as claimed in either of claims 15 and 16~~ of claim 9 wherein when Q is a carbonyl group, $R^1$ is an alkyl group which is unsubstituted or substituted with an unsubstituted or substituted aryloxy group.

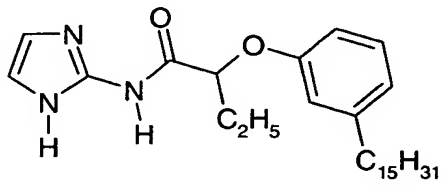
18. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The colour photographic element ~~as claimed in either of claims 15 and 16~~ of claim 9 wherein, when Q is a sulfonyl group, $R^1$ is a substituted aryl group.

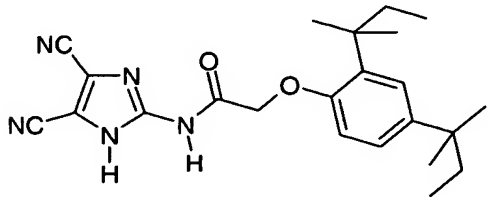
19. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The colour photographic element ~~as claimed in either of claims 15 and 16~~ of claim 9 wherein, when Q is an aryl group, $R^1$ is an alkoxy group.

20. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The colour photographic element ~~as claimed in any one of claims 9 to 19~~ of claim 15 wherein $R^2$ is hydrogen or an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl group.

21. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The colour photographic element ~~as claimed in any one of claims 9 to 20~~ of claim 15 wherein at least one of $R^3$ and $R^4$ is hydrogen or a group which is independently selected from cyan, formyl, keto, carboxylic acid, mercapto and unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, aryl, alkoxy, aryloxy, alkoxy- or aryloxy-carbonyl, alkyl- or aryl-carbonyl, alkyl- or aryl-thio, alkyl- or aryl-sulfoxyl, alkyl- or aryl-sulfonyl, alkyl- or aryl-carbamoyl and alkyl- or aryl-carbonamido or $R^3$ and $R^4$ may join to form a fused ring.

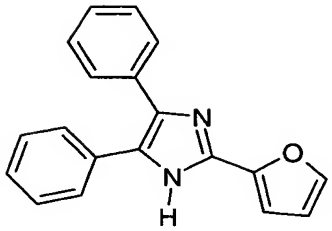
22. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The colour photographic element ~~as claimed in any one of the preceding claims~~ of claim 1 wherein the compound of formula (I) is selected from





SGA1 SGA2

and

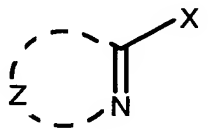


SGA21

23. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The colour photographic element ~~as claimed in any one of the preceding claims~~ of claim 1 wherein when the compound is present in a sensitized layer the ratio of compound to silver is at least 0.1 mmol compound per mol silver halide.

24. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The colour photographic element ~~as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 22~~ of claim 1 wherein when the compound is present in a non-silver-containing layer, the laydown of the compound is at least $3 \times 10^{-5}$ mol/m$^2$.

25. (currently amended) A multicolour photographic element comprising a support bearing yellow, magenta and cyan image-dye-forming units comprising at least one blue-, green- or red-sensitive silver halide emulsion layer having associated therewith at least one yellow, magenta or cyan dye-forming coupler respectively, wherein the element ~~is as claimed in any one of the preceding claims~~ may contain a non silver-containing light-insensitive layer, in which at least one of these layers contains a colourless imidazole compound of formula (I) that undergoes less than 10% chemical or redox reaction with oxidized developer and which enables the photographic speed of the element to be increased by at least 0.05 stop without increasing granularity, compared to the same element without the compound, wherein the compound of formula (I) has the structure:-




(I)

wherein

X is H or a substituent;

Z represents the atoms necessary to complete an unsubstituted or substituted imidazole ring, which may form part of a fused unsubstituted or substituted ring system containing no further ring heteroatoms;

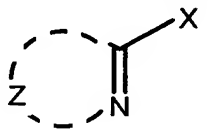
wherein there is present at least one -NH group either in the imidazole ring or directly attached to the imidazole ring as part of X;

provided that

(a) when Z represents the atoms necessary to complete an unsubstituted or substituted benzimidazole ring, an -NH group is directly attached to the imidazole ring as part of X, and X is located between the imidazole nitrogen atoms;

(b) when the –NH group is located in the ring adjacent to the carbon atom bearing X, and X is located between the imidazole nitrogen atoms, the imidazole ring is not fused to a phenanthrene ring.

26. (currently amended) A process of forming an image in a photographic element ~~as hereinbefore defined~~ after the element has been imagewise exposed to light, comprising contacting the element ~~as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 25~~ with a colour developing agent; wherein the element comprises at least one light-sensitive silver halide emulsion layer or a non silver-containing light-insensitive layer, in which at least one of these layers contains a colourless imidazole compound of formula (I) that undergoes less than 10% chemical or redox reaction with oxidized developer and which enables the photographic speed of the element to be increased by at least 0.05 stop without increasing granularity, compared to the same element without the compound, wherein the compound of formula (I) has the structure:-




(I)

wherein

X is H or a substituent;

Z represents the atoms necessary to complete an unsubstituted or substituted imidazole ring, which may form part of a fused unsubstituted or substituted ring system containing no further ring heteroatoms;

wherein there is present at least one -NH group either in the imidazole ring or directly attached to the imidazole ring as part of X;

provided that

(a) when Z represents the atoms necessary to complete an unsubstituted or substituted benzimidazole ring, an -NH group is directly attached to the imidazole ring as part of X, and X is located between the imidazole nitrogen atoms;

(b) when the –NH group is located in the ring adjacent to the carbon atom bearing X, and X is located between the imidazole nitrogen atoms, the imidazole ring is not fused to a phenanthrene ring.